



NEWS RELEASE

Date: Tuesday, June 6, 2006
District: 5 (Santa Barbara, SLO, Monterey, Santa Cruz and San Benito Counties)
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

HIGHWAY 152 TO GET MAJOR UPGRADE

City Council presentation set for Tuesday, June 13

WATSONVILLE – Improving and preserving the roadway, and pedestrian facilities, are the main goals for the Caltrans' Highway 152 project due to start construction in the fall, Caltrans officials announced.

The estimated \$10.5 million project will rehabilitate and repave Highway 152 for about four miles from the junction of highways 1/152 at Holm Road, through downtown, to just east of Beverly Drive north.

"This project will strengthen the roadway and extend its service life by many years with new surface pavement and improved drainage," said Cheryl Willis, Caltrans acting district director.

Caltrans will present the project to the City Council 4 p.m. Tuesday, June 13, at City Hall, 250 Main St., Watsonville.

The project will widen the highway's westbound shoulder from four to eight feet from Wagner Avenue to Beverly Drive north. In compliance with pedestrian accessibility requirements, it will also improve 120 curb ramps.

In addition, it will upgrade 52 commercial and residential driveways, including installing new concrete curb and gutter at 10 of these locations. Some sidewalk sections will also be rebuilt.

For pedestrian and motorist safety, the project will modify two sidewalk bulb-outs on Main Street located between Fifth and Lake streets, and Lake and Beach streets. Both mid-block crossings will be reduced about two feet in width on each side of the roadway to provide highway shoulder and wider lane width. The existing crosswalks will remain in place.





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Another work element includes upgrading storm water drainage systems at several intersections and locations throughout the project limits.

The existing landscaping in the project area will be preserved as much as possible.

Caltrans expects to advertise the project for construction bids in late summer or early fall. Construction is tentatively scheduled to begin in October and be completed in fall 2007, weather permitting.

Construction activities will occur at various times and locations throughout the project limits. Work on curbs, gutter and sidewalk will be limited to three blocks at a time to minimize disturbance to pedestrians.

During construction, one lane in both directions will remain open at all times. When possible, a turning lane will be provided. Access to businesses and residences will also be maintained.

The project is funded through the State Highway Operation and Protection Plan. Caltrans is coordinating the project with the City of Watsonville.

For project updates, or more information, please call Susana Z. Cruz, Caltrans public information officer, at 831-423-0396 or e-mail info-d5@dot.ca.gov.

Caltrans reminds motorists to 'Slow for the Cone Zone.'

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